

Sabbatical Leave Report

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

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Sabbatical project

My sabbatical project, which focused on leisure reading collections in academic health sciences libraries, was composed of two parts.

First, I wanted to learn about the student perspective, that is, to find out how much health sciences students read in their leisure time, what value they placed upon this reading, and whether they felt there was a need for a leisure reading collection in the Health Sciences Library. In October, I sent out a survey to 1800 health sciences students at the University of Saskatchewan, and in November, sent out a reminder. In all, 213 students responded. I presented preliminary results of my survey at two conferences (see “Conference Presentations” below) in May.

Second, I wished to learn about academic health sciences libraries with leisure reading collections. Through a combination of database and web searching, and posting on electronic mailing lists, I identified seven academic libraries with leisure reading collections (six health sciences libraries and one science library). In November and December, I visited the Bibliothèque de la Doua, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, and the Bibliothèque Rockefeller, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, both in Lyon, France; as well as Helsinki University Library, Meilahti Campus Library Terkko, in Helsinki, Finland; and Walton Library, Newcastle University, Newcastle, United Kingdom. At each of these locations I conducted a semi-structured interview with the librarian (and in Helsinki, with other library staff) responsible for the leisure reading collection. I later transcribed the interviews.

In April, I visited the Scott Memorial Library, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Galter Health Sciences Library, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois; and Ehrman Medical Library, New York University, New York, New York. At each of these locations I conducted a semi-structured interview with the librarian responsible for the leisure reading collection. I later had these interviews transcribed.

I am currently in the process of preparing one article for publication on the results of my library visits, and another on the results of my survey.

Conference Presentations

I attended the First Canadian Conference on Medical and Health Humanities entitled “Creating Space for Arts and Humanities in the Education of Health Professionals: Where do we go from here?” in Toronto on May 7, 2011. I presented a poster entitled “The Importance of Leisure Reading to Health Sciences Students: Leisure Reading Collections in Academic Health Sciences Libraries” and had the opportunity to discuss my work with many other conference attendees.

I also attended the Canadian Health Libraries Association’s annual conference in Calgary on May 30, 2011, and presented a talk entitled “Leisure Reading Collections in Academic Health Sciences Libraries:

What Do Our Students Want from Us?" Again, my presentation led to several questions from the audience.

Publications

I was the librarian member of a team which carried out a systematic review; during the sabbatical leave, in preparation for submitting the article for publication, the team asked me to re-run the searches I had previously done so that any relevant, recently-published articles were included in the review. This article, "Diabetes and cardiovascular disease interventions by community pharmacists: a systematic review" was published in May, 2011 in *Annals of Pharmacotherapy*.

I am a member of another systematic review group, this one on the effectiveness of home visits to at-risk mothers and children. During the sabbatical leave, I was asked by the group to re-run the searches previously carried out (and to set up alerts) so that the group could review the most recent publications on the topic. I also wrote the "literature search" section of an article on the review; this article is being prepared for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

In August 2010, I carried out a peer review of an article submitted to *Journal of the Medical Libraries Association* after being invited to do so by the journal editor.

Other activities

On September 30, 2010, I attended the University of Saskatchewan Process Philosophy Unit 7th annual lecture by Dr. Sheila Harding entitled "The Hidden Curriculum in Medicine." I also attended the October 29, 2010 Narrative Medicine session presented by Drs. Marcel D'Eon and Ulrich Teucher.

In late March and early April 2011, I was able to visit the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During my time there, I took the opportunity to meet with the librarian at the Veterinary Medicine Library and the head librarian at the Library of the Health Sciences. I also attended two public lectures at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, one entitled "The "Invisible" Forces of Haiti -- How Can Books and Culture Help the Reconstruction Process" by Elizabeth Pierre-Louis on April 6 2011; this was the 21st annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture. I also attended "The Changing Role of Libraries" by Sohair Wastawy on March 31, 2011.

I attended the introductory and intermediate workshops on the NVivo qualitative analysis software on May 25, 2011. I have already used this software in preliminary analysis of results of the survey I carried out as part of my sabbatical project.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the University of Saskatchewan for the granting me the sabbatical leave and for making the sabbatical expense fund available to me. The leave has been a very interesting and enriching experience, and has allowed me the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with colleagues in other parts of the world. I would also like to thank Dean Vicki Williamson for her encouragement and for providing me with support from the Dean's Research and Innovation Fund. The latter allowed me to pay for transcription of the second set of interviews, registration at the NVivo workshops, as well as travel costs incurred in visiting the U.S. libraries.